



Why are we sending you this newsletter?

- ▶▶ To let you know about refuge planning in Alaska
- ▶▶ To provide an update on refuge planning activities in Alaska
- ▶▶ To tell you about a recently released draft comprehensive conservation plan and how you can get a copy . . . and to invite your comments
- ▶▶ To update our mailing list

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Region 7 -- Alaska
Division of Conservation Planning & Policy
1011 East Tudor Road, MS-231
Anchorage, AK 99503
(907) 786-3357



Refuge Planning in Alaska

Alaska has 16 national wildlife refuges. These contain a wide range of habitats and various wildlife species. Together, the 16 refuges comprise 76.8 million acres and constitute about 80 percent of the National Wildlife Refuge System nationwide.



Each refuge is managed under direction described in a **comprehensive conservation plan** (CCP). These are dynamic plans that provide broad policy guidance and long-term goals and objectives for managing the refuge. Plans are updated every 15 years to reflect changing public interests and new scientific information.

Each refuge also has a **land-conservation plan** (LCP), which focuses on private lands within refuge boundaries with the goal of identifying and conserving high-quality habitats on those lands through cooperative agreements or

through purchase from willing sellers. These LCPs involve participation with affected landowners.

Further, many uses within the refuges are subject to **compatibility determinations** (CDs), and we must reevaluate CDs for existing uses when we prepare or revise a CCP. Compatible uses are recreational, commercial, or other uses on a refuge that will not materially interfere or detract from fulfillment of the National Wildlife Refuge System mission or the purposes for which the refuge was established.

Refuge Planning Update

Revisions of Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCPs)

Six comprehensive conservation plans are currently being revised. Drafts of the Alaska Peninsula and Becharof, Kodiak, and Togiak plans will be available for public comment in 2004. The plans for Kenai, Kanuti, and Izembek refuges are in early development.

Compatibility Determinations

Draft compatibility determinations (CDs) will be included in the draft of each refuge's comprehensive conservation plan. This gives you an opportunity to comment on the draft CDs. The final CDs will be released with the final plans.

Common Management Direction for Alaska Refuges

During the past several years, we have compiled, in consultation with other Service program staffs and the State of Alaska, a set of common management policies and guidelines that will guide activities and uses on all refuges. This direction will apply unless there is justification for different management direction on a specific refuge.

This direction will be included (in text and in a table of uses applied through management categories for refuge lands) in all future draft CCPs. The management guidelines (text and a table) are also available on the Web at <http://alaska.fws.gov/current.htm> and in hard copy or on CD-ROM disk.



You may request the hard copy or CD-ROM disk from CCP Team Leader Ken Rice via e-mail at Ken_W_Rice@fws.gov or via phone at (907) 786-3502.

You can review the guidelines now and comment on them, or you may wait to see how they apply to a particular refuge during the review of the comprehensive conservation plan for that refuge.

We welcome your comments on the management guidelines. The comment period will end on Friday, July 2, 2004. Please send all comments to Ken Rice via e-mail (see address above) or mail to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1011 E. Tudor Road, MS-231, Anchorage, AK 99503.

Wilderness Recommendations

After reviewing the requirements for Wilderness and Wild and Scenic River reviews, we determined that the comprehensive planning requirements of Section 304(g) of ANILCA were best satisfied by honoring the Wilderness recommendations of the current plan while focusing our efforts on describing the wilderness values of the refuges and providing better direction for how the refuges could be managed to protect those values.

A similar approach is taken for wild and scenic river values.

Wilderness values and river-related values are discussed in the CCP revisions, and programs and actions to protect all refuge-related values are discussed in the alternatives of each plan.

Draft Revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Alaska Peninsula and Becharof National Wildlife Refuges

The Draft Revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the Alaska Peninsula and Becharof National Wildlife Refuges is now available. It outlines three alternatives for the management of those Refuges and presents the Service's evaluation of the environmental consequences of those alternatives. The 60-day comment period for the public review draft will end May 31, 2004.



Your comments are invited on these three elements of the draft plan:

- Proposed management direction for the Alaska Peninsula and Becharof Refuges
- Standard management direction for all refuges in Alaska
- Refuge compatibility determinations

The plan is available in the following forms:

- Printed copy of the entire plan
- Printed copy of a summary of the plan
- CD-ROM disk (containing PDFs of the plan)
- Online at www.r7.fws.gov/planning

You may request a copy of the plan by completing that portion of the form on the last pages of this newsletter.

Mailing List Update

To keep you informed about planning and policy issues and documents, we have established an Alaska-wide mailing list, and we need to update our records.

To remain on the mailing list, please answer the questions on the last three pages of this newsletter and return them to us.

Your participation helps us do better planning.

Please complete the information asked for on the next three pages, print the last three pages of this newsletter, and mail them to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1011 East Tudor Road, MS-231 Anchorage, AK 99503

Alaska Peninsula and Becharof NWR Comprehensive Conservation Plan Revision

☐ Yes, I want to see a copy of the Draft Revision of the Alaska Peninsula and Becharof National Wildlife Refuges Comprehensive Conservation Plan. Please send it to me in the following format (please check one):

- ☐ Hard-copy printed version of complete document
- ☐ Hard-copy printed version of document summary
- ☐ CD-ROM disk with PDFs of the complete document

Mailing List Update

- ☐ You can drop me from the mailing list.
- ☐ Please add my name to the mailing list.

Name _____

Title _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Additional mailing list information for our database

Please circle the names of the refuges for which you would like to receive information and circle the type and form of information you are interested in receiving for each:

| Refuge | Type of Information* | | | Form of Information** | | | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------|-----|----|------------------------------|----|-----|----|----|
| Alaska Maritime | CCP | LCP | CD | FD | SD | CDR | NL | GN |
| Alaska Peninsula | CCP | LCP | CD | FD | SD | CDR | NL | GN |
| Arctic | CCP | LCP | CD | FD | SD | CDR | NL | GN |
| Becharof | CCP | LCP | CD | FD | SD | CDR | NL | GN |
| Kanutai | CCP | LCP | CD | FD | SD | CDR | NL | GN |
| Kenai | CCP | LCP | CD | FD | SD | CDR | NL | GN |
| Kodiak | CCP | LCP | CD | FD | SD | CDR | NL | GN |
| Koyukuk | CCP | LCP | CD | FD | SD | CDR | NL | GN |
| Innoko | CCP | LCP | CD | FD | SD | CDR | NL | GN |
| Izembek | CCP | LCP | CD | FD | SD | CDR | NL | GN |
| Nowitna | CCP | LCP | CD | FD | SD | CDR | NL | GN |
| Selawik | CCP | LCP | CD | FD | SD | CDR | NL | GN |
| Tetlin | CCP | LCP | CD | FD | SD | CDR | NL | GN |
| Togiak | CCP | LCP | CD | FD | SD | CDR | NL | GN |
| Yukon Delta | CCP | LCP | CD | FD | SD | CDR | NL | GN |
| Yukon Flats | CCP | LCP | CD | FD | SD | CDR | NL | GN |

* CCP = comprehensive conservation plan; LCP = land-conservation plan;
CD = compatibility determination

** FD = full document; SD = summary of document; CDR = CD-ROM disk with PDF files of full document; NL = newsletters; GN = general notice of planning information

Please give us your e-mail address and a contact phone number so we can reach you if we need to confirm any of this information or to alert you to refuge planning upcoming events and information.

E-mail _____

Phone (office) _____ (home) _____

Please indicate in which of these categories you wish to be listed (check one or more, as appropriate):

- ☐ Alaska State Govt
- ☐ Allottee
- ☐ Big-Game Guide
- ☐ Business, Industry
- ☐ Council, Committee, Commission, Board
- ☐ Elected Official (below state level)
- ☐ Federal Government Agency
- ☐ Fishing Guide
- ☐ Foreign Government
- ☐ Individual
- ☐ Inholder (private land within refuge)
- ☐ Landowner (private land near refuge)
- ☐ Library
- ☐ Media
- ☐ Native (owned bus., assn., tribal govt.)
- ☐ Native Corporation (Regional or village)
- ☐ Organization or Association
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Permittee (holder of special-use permit)
- ☐ School
- ☐ State Agency (not Alaska)
- ☐ State Legislature (elected officials—Alaska)
- ☐ Subsistence
- ☐ Transporter
- ☐ U.S. Legislature (members of Congress)

(fold along this line so that address below is on the outside; use tape to seal the long, open edge)

Place first-class stamp here

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